Numb. 6373

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday May 15. to Tuesday May 18. 1725.

GEORGE R.

GEORGE *by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these Presents shall or may appertain, Greeting. Whereas by an Act passed in the Seventh Year of Our Reign for raising a Sum not exceeding Five Hundred Thousand Pounds, by charging Annuities at the Rate of Five Pounds per Cent. per Ann. upon the Civil List Revenues till redeemed by the Crown, It is (amongst other things) Provided and Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for Us at any time, upon one Quarter of a Year's Notice to be given under Our Royal Sign Manual, and affixed upon the Royal Exchange in London, to redeem the said Annuities, and every of them: Now We in pursuance of the Power given to Us as aforesaid, do signify and declare, (in as much as Money sufficient will be reserved in the Receipt of Our Exchequer at Michaelmas next 1725, to pay to the then Proprietors of the said Annuities, the Consideration or Purchase-Money which was originally paid for the same, and all Arrearages of the said Annuities to that Quarterly Day of Payment,) That the said Annuities and every of them shall stand and be taken to be redeemed from and after that Day, and accordingly that the said Annuities shall from thenceforth cease and determine, and the Revenues on which the same are charged shall be then after discharged off, from, and against the same, according to the Directions of the said Act. Given at our Court at St. James's the Sixth Day of May 1725, in the Eleventh Year of Our Reign.*

By His Majesty's Command,

R. Walpole.
Geo. Baillie.
Geo. Dodington.

AT the Court at St. *James's*, the 15th Day of *May*, 1725.

PRESENT,

The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

His Majesty in Council was this Day pleased to appoint Thomas Sibley, Esq; to be Sheriff of the County of Hertford, in the Room of Henry Sibley, Esq; deceased.

The Answer of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to His Majesty's most gracious Letter.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE embrace with the greatest Satisfaction this new Opportunity of making a dutiful Return to Your Majesty's most Gracious Letter to us. We esteem it our great Honour, that Your Majesty is pleased again to take Notice, in so kind and encouraging Terms, of the steady Zeal and Affection to Your Majesty's Royal Person and Government, which has appear'd in the former Assemblies of this Church: And we should be most unworthy of so many Instances of Your Royal Favour, if we did not continue to be of the same good Spirit and Disposition, on all future Occasions, and particularly in this our present Meeting, which Your Majesty is pleased so willingly to approve of, and countenance with Your Royal Authority.

'Tis with the greatest Joy and Satisfaction, we reflect on the many repeated Assurances Your Majesty has been pleased formerly to give us, of Your Resolution to maintain inviolable, the Rights and Privileges of the Church of Scotland, by Law established; on which we rely with the most entire Confidence: And do acknowledge ourselves to be thereby laid under the strongest Obligations, to pursue such Measures as shall be conceived to conduce most to the flourishing Estate of the true Reform'd Religion, the promoting of Virtue, and discouraging Vice and Immorality; in which we are greatly encouraged by the Assurance Your Majesty gives us of Your Royal Approbation and Concurrence.

May it please Your Majesty,

As Your Majesty's Reign, and wise Administration has, from the Beginning, been most auspicious to all Your Dominions; so they have in a very particular Manner prov'd a great Blessing to this Church: And we have now a new and distinguish'd Instance of Your Majesty's great Goodness, and Fatherly Care in appointing a proper Fund, to be apply'd for the Provision and Entertainment of such Itinerant Preachers and Catechists, as shall be employ'd in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for removing of Ignorance, and putting a Stop to Profaneness and the Growth of Popery; for which Royal Bounty we are engaged by the strongest Ties, to return our most sincere and dutiful Thanks.

We cannot but rejoice that the Representations made by former Assemblies and their Commissions, have moved Your Royal Heart so effectually to take Care of the Good of Mankind, and the Welfare of precious Souls, as to provide so bountifully for instructing them in the Faith and Practice of the true Christian Religion, and preventing their being seduced to Vice and the Errors of Popery.

As we have the deepest Sense of Gratitude for this Your Royal Donation; so we hope the due and faithful Application of it to the pious Purposes for which it is granted by Your Majesty, shall appear by the Accompts of the Distribution which shall be annually exhibited to Your Majesty's High Treasurer, or Commissioners of Your Treasury, or Barons of Your Majesty's Court of Exchequer in Scotland, in Obedience to the Direction contained in Your Majesty's Royal Warrant: And it does afford us the greatest Pleasure and Encouragement to consider, that by the Blessing of God on our Endeavours, the same Methods that contribute to remove the Ignorance and Superstition of the rude Inhabitants of those remote Places, and to defeat the Attempts of Popish Emissaries; must necessarily tend to impress them with Sentiments of Loyalty towards Your Majesty, to promote the Interest of Your happy Government and Royal Family, and dispose them to give a due and chearful Obedience to Your Majesty, and the just Laws to which all Your Subjects ought to conform themselves. We have always look'd on ourselves to be bound by the strictest Ties, to endeavour to influence the People committed to our Charge, with a due Sense of their Duty in those Particulars; and we shall be careful to instruct such as shall be employed upon Your Majesty's gracious Donation, to use their utmost Endeavours among the People with whom they are to deal, for the same Purpose.

We are very sensible that nothing can be more becoming a Religious Assembly, than the Spirit of Moderation and Unanimity, and that it can suffer by nothing more, than by Divisions; And therefore (as Your Majesty is pleased graciously to exhort us) we are resolved, by the Grace of God, to avoid them, and to guard against the Practices of all such, as under any Pretence whatsoever, would labour to destroy that Brotherly Love and Affection, which Your Majesty so justly observes ought to shine in all our Debates and Councils.

The Earl of Loudoun's Capacity and Abilities, by which he has so often distinguished himself in Your Majesty's Service, and in promoting the Good of this Church, whose Interests were on many Occasions the particular Care of his Noble Ancestors, render Your Majesty's Choice of him, to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to us.

That our Gracious God may plentifully reward Your Majesty and Your Royal Family, the many great Favours you have conferred upon this Church, That he may long preserve Your Majesty to reign a happy Prince over an obedient People, That he may long continue you to be Guardian of the Protestant Religion both at Home and Abroad, That he may greatly bless their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and their Royal Offspring, And make these Nations happy in a Succession of Protestant Princes of Your Royal Line, to latest Posterity,

who